



## Chemical and Biological Helpline Database

The EPA National Homeland Security Research Center, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center, is modifying the Chemical and Biological Helpline Database to include laboratory analytical methods.

The Helpline Database provides information on issues related to general policy, training, and equipment needed to plan and train for potential homeland security incidents. Updates to the database will be made on an annual basis.

The Database contains sensitive information intended for release only to federal government agencies and other identified individuals with "Need to Know" authorization. It will be made available to environmental laboratories, emergency responders and other officials charged with public protection.

The Helpline provides officials with extensive data for use during a homeland security incident. It includes information on detecting and decontaminating contaminants, specifications for chemical and biological equipment, and instructions on advisories and other procedures. Among the medical data included is information on recognizing exposure symptoms, providing proper medical treatment, and obtaining the proper protective equipment. The Database also provides information on relevant Internet addresses, laws and regulations, and standard operating procedures.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 1996 mandated the creation of both emergency and non-emergency technical assistance services for responders to chemical and biological (CB) incidents. Development and operation of a CB Helpline for non-emergency technical assistance and a CB Hotline for emergency technical assistance are key components of this technical assistance service. The EPA is participating in the expansion of this database to increase the amount of data available for Homeland Security purposes.



Technical contact: Oba Vincent, U.S. EPA • [vincent.oba@epa.gov](mailto:vincent.oba@epa.gov)